

MINUTES OF THE NORTH HAVEN CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE (NHCETF) 3/10/08

Present: Hugh Davis, Chairman, Mary Mahon, Letty McPhedran, Diantha Thorpe, Paul Colella, Patricia Brown, Nick Gill, Maurice Libson, Erin MacDonnell, Bruce Crowder, Ken Foscue, Walt Heinig, Rip Dauster and guest Lora Lee Crowder

Hugh welcomed new members. Total number on NHCETF is now fifteen.

Hugh reported NHHS Project Green has already sent back their application to NHCETF for a mini-grant. If accepted, it merits press releases and publicity, perhaps with members of Project Green, on Sara Querfeld's local access TV show. Also, a scout leader was sent our information.

Erin spoke of the waste in the elementary schools cafeterias. She felt speaking to PTAs and sending fliers home might stimulate interest in conservation. Walt, who has a strong background in energy, having worked at CP&L for years, wondered why the town had bought a garbage truck and two boilers without a thought to renewable sources of fuel. Maurice pointed out the airline industry will be sure to change now that a plane has flown using biofuel. He wants us to promote solar panels on houses. Paul and Mary spoke of the New Haven Register March 2 article about the \$1 million natural gas "tri-generation system" Branford High School financed through grants to save energy, with no additional cost to taxpayers.

Ken suggested stating our goals and objectives, then designating committees to accomplish these goals. Hugh said the goal is household sign ups for clean energy. Mary offered to formulate goals, consulting with Hugh. Bruce pointed out that the resolution that created the NHCETF spoke of energy use, not just electricity. Are the oil, gasoline for vehicles, and gas heating to be considered? Diantha said narrowing the NHCETF goals in the beginning will make us more effective and the Conservation Commission(NHCC) should be the group looking over the energy use in town.

Committees were established:

PUBLICITY and EDUCATION; Ken, Maurice, Letty, Bruce

Information clearing house, information onto town web site, provide speakers, planning events or to be present at established events, TV radio and newspaper press releases, individual letters to newspapers, explore a monthly newspaper column from NHCETF

GRANTS: Paul, Nick, Mary

Grant application, and review of grants, training and IDs for people going door to door and people manning tables, personal contact

OUTREACH: Rip, Erin, Diantha

Schools: PTAs, community service projects, fliers to go home

Churches: establish contacts, offer speakers from NHCETF speakers list

Businesses: Diantha will have list, Letter, follow-up phone call, or visit?

LIASON to GOVERNMENT: Hugh, Walt, Pat

Examine progress of 5% of the town budgeted expenditures for clean energy, and of the EPA audit of town buildings

Hugh made the point that clean energy depends on altruism. Everyone who signs up contributes to the grid. Ken said that each household can learn to turn off enough daily electricity to save money and it will balance any extra cost for clean energy on the UI bill; a point to be

made whenever we ask for sign ups. Diantha and Dorie are making a list of energy saving measures to hand out, particularly to people who refuse our clean energy sign up suggestion.

Paul has been offered a \$25 donation to our cause. Pat will talk to Finance officers about where it should be saved. NHCETF now has a town account where our \$5000 grant is kept for our use.

Mary read the highlights of an article on mercury in CFLs: if a CFL should break, you open the window, leave the room for 15 minutes, do not vacuum but use gloves to scoop up debris, contain it in a plastic bag and take to hazardous waste.

Hugh suggested meeting once a month, the second Monday of the month was available to all except Nick who cannot come until 7:30.

Next meeting is Monday April 14 at 7:30 at the Recreation Center. Members will come at 7PM to meet as committees, then have the meeting at 7:30.